

6/2/15 Briefing for OWW OD and PST PM on Swinomish Public Outreach/Education Project
DRAFT lhc 6/2/15

- **History of “public outreach” project** and relevant exchange between EPA, NWIFC, and Swinomish
 - **2011. Initial proposal for this project came in 2011.** Purpose of project was to first collect information on public perceptions of water quality in the Skagit Basin, and then to conduct a public education effort that would lead to improved practices and regulatory certainty that instream resources would be protected, consistent with the Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan.

Ex. 5 - Attorney Client

- **2013 funding.** Swinomish added to the project that the desired “final outcome of this project will be a ballot initiative during the 2014 election cycle to require regulations to provide for riparian buffers on agricultural lands bordering salmon streams.”
 - One of the outputs of the award was the “whatsupstream.com” website, with ads on NPR and elsewhere pointing to this website.
 - I raised this to Rick, who in turn raised this to Dennis, and Tom Eaton.

Ex. 5 - Attorney Client

- Following discussion between Rick, Larry, and NWIFC, Larry decided to limit the proposal to the broad public outreach and education on non-point water quality issues that they had been pursuing under the grant. They decided that none of the work on a ballot initiative would be pursued with NEP funds.
- Side note: Swinomish also explored using funds from a CWA citizen suit (against a Dike District) consent decree to campaign on behalf of the riparian buffer initiative. When I last heard about this in late 2013, it seemed that Swinomish ultimately did not pursue that.
- **May, 2015.** Swinomish submitted a revised proposal for the same project, significantly increasing activity under the “public education” element of the project. See attached e-mail from Lisa to Tiffany dated 5/19/15.
- **Consistency with Action Agenda:**
 - **Skagit Chinook Recovery Plan:** “Successful habitat protection depends on three important components. First is a public that recognizes the importance of salmon habitat protection, and that does not condone actions by others that do harm to these resources. This sentiment should be nurtured through a vigorous public information effort, and by providing the technical information to assist landowners and others in their efforts to comply with existing regulations. Technical and financial resources should also be made available to those who voluntarily want to

do even more to protect and restore salmon habitat if they so choose. Providing people with the information to make informed decisions that will be protective of salmon habitat when working in and around streams is the first step towards habitat protection. To summarize, providing people the tools to “do the right thing” capitalizes on the vast majority of the public that wants to provide for a future for Skagit River Chinook.”

- **A3.2 Retain economically viable working forests and farms:** Agricultural lands. As described earlier, since 1950 we have lost more than half of the farmland in the Puget Sound region. Effectively preserving agricultural land will involve tackling a complex set of interrelated issues including real work to ensure that agriculture continues to be a viable, and vibrant, industry in Puget Sound.
- **A.3.2.2 Agriculture strategy.** The Partnership, in collaboration with WSDA, Ecology, WSCC, and agricultural partners has convened an advisory committee to consider development of a Puget Sound agricultural strategy. The strategy will identify a) needs for maintaining the health of the industry b) key areas where the agricultural industry can contribute to the protection and restoration of Puget Sound and c) challenges to be addressed for achieving these goals and implementing a successful strategy. This near term action could be further amended or integrated into the regional funding strategy as appropriate.
- **D2. Support and Build Strategic, Collaborative Partnerships.** Effective partner relationships are essential for achieving a shared vision of recovery and working through challenging issues. This strategy highlights three important areas of broad collaboration—that differ from the issue-specific collaboration described elsewhere in Section 3. A description of Partnership-related collaborative structures and partnerships is included in Appendix A, Puget Sound National Estuary Program Management Conference Overview.
- **D2.1 Advance the coordination of local recovery actions via local integrating organizations.** Many locally based groups exist for salmon recovery, marine resource conservation through the Northwest Straits Initiative, watershed management (RCW 90.82) and protection, and water quality. In any given area, there are many local groups working on recovery-related activities, and these groups are often not adequately connected to each other. The Partnership is working with local interests to better coordinate implementing partners, and create a more effective and collaborative approach to clarify local priorities, accomplish identified work, address problems, and provide technical support.
- **Potential remedies**
 - Recommend adjustments to project to better align with NEP, Management Conference, and Action Agenda
 - Recommend that alternate sources of funding be used for work that conflicts with NEP, Management Conference, and Action Agenda goals and objectives
 - Other?
- **Next steps**
 - Discussion between Angela/Dan and Larry?
 - Other?